



Date: March 31, 2022
To: GW OHT Core Steering Committee
From: Emmi Perkins, Director of Transformation
Subject: **Key Messages – Core Steering – March 30, 2022**

Key Messages

The following are the Key Messages from the Guelph Wellington OHT (GW OHT) Steering Committee meeting on March 30, 2022. They can be shared as appropriate with your staff, clinicians, boards, and partners.

- The Steering Committee received an update about provincial directions regarding home and community care that have implications for advancement of the IPCT model:
 - The [Connecting People to Home and Community Care Act, 2020](#) (Bill 175) will come into effect May 1, 2022. There will be no change to current service delivery for existing clients on May 1. The Bill provides new flexibility to deliver home and community care services through a variety of new models and (as of September 1, 2022) allows innovative approaches to care coordination.
 - In February, the Ministry hosted a webinar about “Home and Community Care Transformation”. In their presentation, the Ministry confirmed their commitment to the third-party contracted provider model as the predominant model, to promote stability and continuity of home care service delivery, while supporting modernization. The Ministry is committed to changing not who delivers care but rather how care is delivered. The Ministry described their intent to refine the contracted model to support the transition of / accountability for service delivery to OHTs.
 - GW OHT has been invited to submit a proposal to advance Home Care Modernization as a “Leading Project”. Approximately 5 “Leading Projects” will be selected across the province as a targeted phase of innovation and learning that will inform provincial planning related to home and community care modernization. The goal of these Leading Projects is to support the next phase of expansion of home care delivery by OHTs. The GW OHT is advancing the Integrated Primary Care Team (IPCT) model in its proposal that will be submitted on March 31, 2022.
- Emmi Perkins and Karen Armstrong presented ‘[GW OHT 2021-22 Year in Review](#)’ as a reflection and celebration of GW OHT accomplishments in 2021/22.
- GW OHT Steering Committee members invited to join a small working group to draft recommendations regarding the scope of decision-making for a ‘Joint Executive Committee’ under an ‘Organizational Alliance’ model. The recommendations will be shared with the full Steering Committee before being represented to the GW OHT Strategy and Governance Council for consideration.
- The GW OHT was featured in the Guelph Mercury Tribune with the headline “*Amid the pandemic, Guelph health-care providers have quietly worked on a drastic Ontario overhaul*”. Click [here](#) to read the article.

- A [proposed legislative update to the Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004](#) (PHIPA) has passed first reading. The details of the regulations have not yet been published but it is hoped that this change will enable OHTs will be able to share personal health information for quality and planning purposes. This would assist OHTs in responding to evolving pandemic needs, better understanding the patients and communities they serve, and designing and delivering integrated, coordinated care. This is an important enabler of the GW OHT Harmonized Information Management Plan (HIMP).
- Members of the GW OHT Steering committee were alerted to an invitation from The Ministry of Health and Ontario Health (OH) to an 'OHT Year End Update' webinar to reflect on Ontario Health Teams' (OHTs') collective achievements to date and preview what's ahead. The Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, is expected to attend and share key achievements on the journey to building a more connected, better integrated health care system. Leaders from the ministry and OH will share insights related to advancing the OHT model, its foundational building blocks and the path forward. All GW OHT partners are welcome to attend. Click [here](#) to register.
- The Steering Committee was informed that the GW OHT has received confirmation of 'Implementation Funding' to support our work from April 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023. GW OHT has also received an additional 'Collaboration Funding' – this funding has been provided to OHTs like Guelph Wellington who have been asked to form a partnership between two previously separate OHTs/partners.
- Dr. Ian Digby presented a 'Position Paper' on behalf of the Guelph Wellington Physician Association (GWPA) describing health system recovery opportunities highlighting 11 areas of priority for GWPA. The Steering Committee expressed a high level of appreciation for the work done by GWPA and has requested further discussion to explore how the Steering Committee can use this paper as a guide to OHT work – specifically, what are we already doing and where do we need to create new working groups to support GWPA priorities?
- Dr. Mercer provided an update about COVID in our community. She reported that COVID variant BA2 is now the dominant variant. Expectation is there will be a rise in infections in April and May as the BA2 variant is more transmissible, but it is not expected that the severity of illness will be worse. Workplaces may experience more employee absences as a result of the increased infections. To protect our community, it is important that we encourage our residents to remain up to date with vaccinations and that we have a clear and timely process to support our residents to access treatment and therapy options. It is also expected that guidance regarding fourth vaccination dose will be coming soon.

*If you have any questions or comments, please contact Emmi Perkins
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